

**Statement of Congressman Kenny Marchant-- FSC hearing – “The Community Reinvestment Act: Thirty Years of Accomplishments, but Challenges Remain”**

Thank you Chairman Frank for allowing me to introduce one of my constituents, Cynthia Blankenship, who is here today to testify on behalf of the Independent Community Bankers of America.

Cynthia Blankenship is the chairman-elect of ICBA, which is a group I have worked with very closely in the past. I am very excited to work with her in the future in her new capacity as chairman-elect and I think all the members of this committee will be pleased as well.

By way of background, Mrs. Blankenship is currently serving as Vice Chairman/Chief Operating Office of the Bank of the West in Irving, TX. She is the chairman of the ICBA Congressional Affairs Committee and vice chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee. So as you can tell she didn't run for chairmanship of ICBA out of boredom.

She has had a long and accomplished career in banking, plying her trade at several prominent banking institutions in Texas, such as the Independent National Bank of Irving, First National Bank of Grapevine, and

Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Krum, Texas, before going out on her own in 1986 and opening up the Bank of the West with her husband, Gary. She knows this business from top to bottom, and if there is anyone that is qualified to head up an organization like ICBA, it's Cynthia Blankenship.

Thank you again Chairman Frank for allowing me the time for an introduction.